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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Yasuharu Yoshida

Serial No.: 09/348,169

Group Art Unit: 2682

Filing Date: July 7, 1999

Examiner: Ly, Nghi H.

For: AUTOMOBILE COMMUNICATION METHOD AND SYSTEM

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AUG 1 2 2002

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated April 18, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1, 4 and 13 are independent.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, that Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

Applicant's invention, as disclosed and claimed, is directed to an automobile communications method and apparatus for an onboard mobile station in a plurality of radio zones which are consecutively arranged along a road. The method includes controlling the communication frequencies used in each of the radio zones in a time division scheme such that simultaneous transmission at a same communication frequency is not permitted in adjoining